

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A communication method in which a plurality of remote calls to at least one remote system application are issued by ~~one or more~~ a plurality of requestor applications, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving said remote calls from said ~~one or more~~ requestor applications in a remote function manager;

providing one or more connections to said at least one remote system application addressed by said calls; and

dispatching each of said plurality of calls to a respective one of said one or more connections, said dispatching step comprising the step of passing at least one of said one or more connections from one of said requestor applications to another of said requestor applications after the connection has been used for said one of said requestor applications.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said remote calls are remote function calls.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said remote calls are remote procedure calls.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said calls specify traffic management data and use data, said method comprising the further step of:

providing at least a memory reference for the traffic management data and use data associated with each of said calls;

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said respective one of said one or more connections is a best adapted connection of said one or more connections.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

connecting via said respective one of said one or more connections to said remote application; and

processing said call.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 in which shared memory of a common machine is used for said steps of dispatching and connecting.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which a single thread per connection is provided.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which socket communication is used for communicating from said ~~one or more~~ plurality of requestor applications to said remote function manager.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which calls from a systems management system are processed.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which calls to a stock exchange management system are processed.
12. (Original) A computer system having installed program means for performing the method of claim 1.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 1 when said program product is executed on said computer.

15. (New) The method of claim 1 in which said dispatching step comprises the steps of:
- determining whether an existing connection is free to accept a call; and
- dispatching the call to an existing connection if an existing connection is free to accept the call.
16. (New) The method of claim 15 in which said dispatching step further comprises the step of:
- opening a new connection and dispatching the call to the new connection if no existing connection is free to accept the call.
17. (New) The method of claim 1 in which said dispatching step comprises the steps of:
- determining whether a connection is to be reused for a new call after it has been used for a previous call; and
- keeping the connection open if the connection is to be reused for a new call, otherwise, closing the connection without using it for a new call.
18. (New) In a communication system in which a plurality of remote calls to at least one remote system application are issued by a plurality of requestor applications, a remote call manager for receiving said remote calls from said requestor applications, said remote call manager comprising:
- a remote call connector for providing one or more connections to said at least one remote system application addressed by said calls; and
- a remote call dispatcher for dispatching each of said plurality of calls to a respective one of said one or more connections, said dispatcher passing at least one of said one or more

connections from one of said plurality of requestor applications to another of said requestor applications after the connection has been used for said one of said requestor applications.

19. (New) The remote call manager of claim 18 in which said remote call dispatcher determines whether an existing connection is free to accept a call and dispatches the call to an existing connection if an existing connection is free to accept the call
20. (New) The remote call manager of claim 19 in which said remote call dispatcher opens a new connection and dispatches the call to the new connection if no existing connection is free to accept the call.
21. (New) The remote call manager of claim 18 in which said remote call dispatcher determines whether a connection is to be reused for a new call after it has been used for a previous call and keeps the connection open if the connection is to be reused for a new call, otherwise, closing the connection without using it for a new call.